



By the King.

A PROCLAMATION

For A General Fast Throughout this Realm of *England*.

CHARLES R.



Here is it hath pleased Almighty God, after many years of Health, and many great and miraculous Mercies afforded to this Kingdom, to Visit the Cities of London and Westminster, and Places adjacent, with the Plague and Pestilence, which by the spreading thereof into several Parishes, and other the remote Parts of this Kingdom, seems to threaten a general and most dreadful Visitation; To the end therefore that Prayers and Supplications may every Where be offered up unto Almighty God for removal of his heavy Judgment, and that some Solemn dayes and times may be set apart for the Performance of these, and other Religious Duties, His Majesty is pleased by the Advice of his Privy Council to Declare, and doth hereby Publish and Declare His Royal Will and Plea-

sure, That Wednesday next, being the Twelfth day of this instant July, shall be observed and kept within the Cities of London and Westminster, and Places adjacent, as a day of Fasting and

645

160/170
160

Humiliation: And Wednesday thre Weeks after, being the Second day of August, shall be ob-
served and kept in like manner in all Parts of this Realm; and so from thence forwards every
First Wednesday of every Moneth successively, until it shall please God to Withdraw this Plague
and Grievous Sickness. And that the Solemnization of these Dayes may be with such Order
and Decency as is Requisite, his Majesty by the Advice of his Bishops, hath directed to be
Composed, Published, and Printed, the form of such Prayers as his Majesty thinks fit to be used
in all Churches and Chappels at these Publick Meetings, and also upon Wednesdays in
every Week; and hath given Charge to his Bishops to disperse the same through the whole
Kingdom: All which his Majesty doth Expressly Charge and Command, shall be Reverently
and Devoutly performed by all his Loving Subjects, as they will answer to God for the
neglect of so great a Duty and Service, and upon Pain of being proceeded against as Wilful
Breakers and Contemners of this his Royal Will and Command. And his Majesty doth
further Declare, that upon all and every the said days of Fasting and Humiliation, there shall be
a Collection made of the Alms and Charitable Benevolence of the severall Persons in the
Respective Churches and Chappels then Assembled: Which Collection shall be Paid unto the
Bishops of the severall Dioceses wherein such Collections shall be made, or to such persons as the
Bishops shall appoint to Receive the same. And the Bishops shall take care, that the Moneys
so Collected and Paid in, be in the first place applied to the relief of such places as shall be Visited
with the Plague within the Dioceses wherein such Collections shall be made: And the Over-
plus, if any be, shall be paid in to the Bishop of London, or such as he shall appoint to Receive
the same, and be applied to the poor who are Sick and Visited with the Plague in London or
Westminster, or the parts adjacent. And Lastly, his Majesty doth Command, That the Re-
spective Preachers on the said fast days, do earnestly Exhort the people in the severall parishes,
to a free and Chearful Contribution towards the Relief of their Christian Brethren, whom
it hath pleased God to Visit with Sickness.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the Sixth day of July, In the Seventeenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

LO N D O N,

Printed by the Assigns of John Bill and Christopher Barker, Printers to the Kings
most Excellent Majesty. 1674.